

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 12-19 were pending.

Claim 2 is canceled.

Claims 1, 4 and 12-19 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claim 1 is amended to require the presence of both a phenolic antioxidant and a processing stabilizer as component b). The antioxidant and the processing stabilizer are specifically defined and are those employed in the Xalter Declaration (of record). Claim 1 is also amended to require that component d) is bisphenol A diglycidyl ether. Claim 1 also amended to require that component a) is a polyolefin. Support is found in original claim 2.

No new matter is added.

Claim 1 is objected to for reasons of record.

Claim 1 is corrected by amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fumitoshi, JP04-68133 in view of Ton That, U.S. Pat. No. 7,220,484.

These rejections are for reasons of record.

To rebut these rejections, Applicants reiterate their arguments of the response filed September 8, 2009. It is not repeated here for the sake of brevity. Applicants point to the results of the working Examples and of the Xalter Declaration.

In "Response to Arguments", the Examiner states that the data fails to establish unexpected results because (i) the data is not a comparison to the closest prior art and (ii) the data is not reasonable commensurate in scope to the scope of the claims.

Regarding (i), Applicants submit that unexpected results are shown in the Xalter Declaration. The results show that conclusions drawn from polymer with conventional filler cannot be extended to nanocomposites. Therefore one could not have expected these results when substituting the treated clay of Ton That for the filler of Fumitoshi.

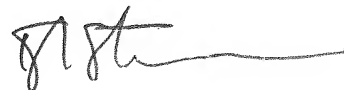
Regarding (ii), the claims are now aimed more exactly at the results of the Xalter Declaration.

In view of the results of the Xalter Declaration, the present amendments and the discussion of the response filed September 8, 2009, Applicants submit that these rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants note that a supplemental IDS was filed January 11, 2010. The Examiner is kindly requested to indicate that the references cited therein are considered.

Respectfully submitted,



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